

Message Text

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S E C R E T JIDDA 4622

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, SA, US
SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH KING AFTER PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 11 O'CLOCK ON JUNE 29 I PRESENTED MY CREDENTIALS TO KING KHALID. AFTER THE BRIEF, FORMAL CEREMONY, EVERYONE LEFT EXCEPT THE KING, PRINCE SAUD, DR PHARAON, THE INTERPRETER AND ME. WE HAD BEEN TOLD UNOFFICIALLY THAT THE KING WAS SICK AND IN FACT THAT BLOOD FOR A TRANSFUSION HAD BEEN SENT TO THE PALACE FROM A HOSPITAL IN RIYADH THAT MORNING. THE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION WAS THAT HE HAD A NOSEBLEED. WE HAD ALSO BEEN WARNED THAT THE MEETING WOULD PROBABLY BE VERY SHORT.

2. ALTHOUGH THE KING APPEARED PALE AND SLIGHTLY WAN, OUR PRIVATE MEETING AFTER THE CEREMONY LASTED 20 TO 30 MINUTES AND HE APPEARED QUITE ANIMATED AT TIMES.

3. AFTER OPENING PLEASANTRIES AS TO THE KING'S HEALTH, ETC., I TOLD HIM THAT PRESIDENT CARTER SENT HIS BEST WISHES AND APPRECIATION FOR THE RESPONSIBLE AND RESPONSIVE ATTITUDE AND ACTION TAKEN THUS FAR BY SAUDI ARABIA IN THESE BEGINNING MONTHS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. I ALSO EXTENDED TO HIM THE PRESIDENT'S THANKS FOR SENDING CROWN PRINCE FAHD AND HIS ACCOMPANYING DELEGATION TO THE UNITED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 04622 301447Z

STATES. I TOLD HIM THAT IT WAS THE UNANIMOUS VIEW OF ALL OF THE U.S. OFFICIALS INVOLVED THAT THE VISIT WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS.

4. THE KING REPLIED THAT HE, TOO, WAS PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE VISIT AND HOPED THAT MORE SUCH VISITS BY SAG OFFICIALS COULD BE ARRANGED IN THE FUTURE.

5. I THANKED HIM FOR SEEING SENATOR STONE AND TOLD HIM THAT THE SENATOR WAS MUCH IMPRESSED BY THE COURTESIES EXTENDED TO HIM AND BY THE WARMTH, HOSPITALITY AND SINCERITY OF THE SAUDI OFFICIALS AND PEOPLES. I TOLD HIM THAT SENATOR JAVITS WAS ARRIVING NEXT WEEK AND FELT THE VISIT WAS IMPORTANT AS THE SENATOR WAS KEY MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. THE KING COMMENTED AT LENGTH ON THE FACT THAT HIS COUNTRY WELCOMED SENATOR JAVITS AND HE REGRETTED THE FACT THAT SO MANY PEOPLE THOUGHT THAT SAG DISCRIMINATED AGAINST JEWS WHEN IN FACT THAT WAS NOT THE CASE--ONLY AGAINST ZIONISTS. HE DWELT AT LENGTH ON THIS SUBJECT EXPLAINING THAT THE JEWS WHO WERE ZIONISTS HAD BROUGHT AN UNDESERVED STIGMA ON THOSE JEWS WHO ARE NOT ZIONISTS.

6. I TOLD HIM THAT I THOUGHT SUCH THINGS AS THE KING FAISAL FOUNDATION FINANCING THE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM AT THE TERRASETT SCHOOL IN MCLEAN, VIRGINIA, WERE EXCELLENT ACTIONS TO SHOW THE CONCERN OF THE SAUDI PEOPLE FOR MAJOR PROBLEMS SUCH AS ALTERNATE SOURCES OF ENERGY NOW FACING THE WORLD.

7. THE KING THEN STARTED TALKING ABOUT THE PROBLEMS IN AFRICA. HE SAID TALKS HAD BEGUN EVEN BEFORE FAHD'S WASHINGTON VISIT AND THAT HE WAS EXTREMELY INTERESTED
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 JIDDA 04622 301447Z

IN THE NEW AND EMERGING COUNTRIES THERE. HE POINTED OUT THAT ZIONISM AND COMMUNISM HAD ENTERED INTO AN UNHOLY ALLIANCE TO TAKE CONTROL OF THESE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BEFORE THEY HAD ENOUGH EXPERIENCE IN GOVERNMENT TO WITHSTAND THESE IDEOLOGIES. HE SEEMED TO WANT TO DRAW ME INTO A DISCUSSION BUT I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS SURE SECRETARY VANCE AND HIS STAFF COULD DISCUSS THESE HAPPENINGS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OVERALL PEACE NEGOTIATIONS UPON HIS VISIT HERE IN LATE JULY.
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